

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 8, 2006 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 19, and 21 are in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 19, and 21 stand rejected. Claim 1 is amended for clarity. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 13, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wicker (US 2003/0030271 A1). The rejection cites Wicker (US 2003/0030271 A1) in rejecting independent claim 1. Specifically, he cites Wicker as disclosing "a method for recording a watermark pattern on a color recording medium that forms an image thereon using a number N of colorants, where N is equal to or greater than three, the method comprising the step of forming the watermark pattern using at least two colorants, but fewer than N colorants, at each spatial location of the watermark pattern".

However, in the method taught by Wicker, the security feature (i.e., the watermark pattern) consists of a first image 22 and a first background 24, combined with a second image 32 and a second background 34, wherein the first image/background is printed in one subtractive color and the second image/background is printed in a second subtractive color (paragraphs 25 and 26). Each of these images and backgrounds are printed as lines, and "white" spaces separate the lines (paragraph 31). Now, according to Wicker, "... each of the sets of lines 22, 24, 32, 34 is to be printed at different angles from each other in order for the invention to work." (paragraph 32).


It is obvious from simple observation that if multiple patterns are printed as lines with white spaces (i.e., no colorant) and the patterns are overlaid with different angles for the lines, there will be spatial locations in the overlaid patterns that consist of only one colorant, or possibly even zero colorants, because of the white space. This is true regardless of the specific line frequencies or angles. Thus the method by Wicker fails to meet the limitation of claim 1 of "... forming the watermark pattern *using at least two colorants, but fewer than N colorants, at each spatial location of the watermark pattern.*" In summary, Wicker must use zero or one colorant in some spatial locations of the watermark pattern.

Claim 17 requires substantially the same limitations as claim 1 in alternative language and is patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.